



FIRE BREATHING DRAGON Firefighters and fire victims battle a huge dragon that swept through Barangay Tuna-Expanza in Iloilo City on Monday razing about 200 houses made of light materials. This is the Year of the Water Dragon in the Chinese calendar.

Vizconde to testify vs CJ

Asians welcome Year of Dragon

BELENG—Asia welcomed the Year of the Dragon on Monday with a cacophony of fireworks, hoping for omens that the Chinese zodiac will usher in the wealth and power it represents.

From Malaysia to South Korea, millions of people traveled huge distances to reunite with their families for the Lunar New Year—the most important holiday of the year for many in Asia—including in Korea as watching dragon dances.

At the clock in midnight, Beijing's skyline lit up with



SILENCE OF THE LANTERNS No fireworks, just hundreds of sky lanterns soaring silently into the Iloilo City skies on Sunday night as the local Chinese community welcomes the Chinese New Year. Dragon City has banned the use of fireworks.



Sick? Just consult 'Dr. Smartphone'

SEOUL—Tired of long waits at the hospital for medical tests? If Korean researchers have their way, your smartphone could one day eliminate that—can you imagine ever tell you that you have cancer.

A team of scientists at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) said in a paper published in *Science* that their research could be used to detect cancerous cells in the blood.

"I began from the idea that touch screens work by recognizing the electronic signal from the touch of the finger, and so the

Defense seeks removal of 'ill-gotten' records

By Christine V. Esguerra

WILL high-drama unfold in the impeachment trial today with the scheduled testimony of former Revenue Commissioner Simon Isidro-Huertas?

Not so fast, according to lawyers of Chief Justice Renato Corona, who will ask the impeachment court to junk all documents and testimonies in connection with allegations of ill-gotten wealth.

The defense team will submit this morning a memorandum that would also ask the court to remove from the records evidence submitted and sealed in last week's oral

defense. Esguerra, one of the defense counsels, previously said his camp would ask the court to immediately resolve their "standing motion" against the introduction of a supposedly new set of allegations against Corona into Article 2.

If the matter is not resolved soon, he said the defense would ask that the prosecution move to the arena other articles of impeachment, particularly Article 1 (Corona's alleged "partiality" and "obsequiousness" in cases involving the Arroyo administration).

"If senators take a little time resolving [our motion], we may ask for the suspension of the prosecution of evidence on Article 2—and hope we can go to other articles in the

'Serious breach' of high court rule cited

By Cathy C. Yamanian

LAURO Vizconde has decided to appear in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona to discuss the details of a private meeting with him in September 2010.

Vizconde, 74, said that during this meeting Corona told him about the alleged efforts of Senate Associate Justice Antonio Carpio to pressure (bribe) colleagues to vote for the acquittal of Robert Webb, son of former Sen. Freddie Webb.

The younger Webb had spent 18 years in prison awaiting the final ruling of the high tribunal in connection with the rape of Vizconde's daughter, Carmela, who was later exonerated, along with her younger sister and mother in their Panatag City home on July 31, 1991, in which he was the principal accused.

Vizconde said he had spent the past two weeks agonizing on whether to testify against Corona whose reaction to him in that private meeting was cited as one of the grounds in Article 3 of the impeachment complaint against the chief magistrate for betrayal of

HIGH COST OF HEALTH CARE PhilHealth policy cannot cover medical expenses

By Kirstin C. Bernabe
(Special to Inquirer)

A CARE-RATE system to cover medical costs outlined by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., or PhilHealth, did not help Aileen Manzano's aunt, Junia, a newspaper peddler who suffered a stroke.

The family had to pay over P30,000 in day, inclusive of consultation, much more and

Palace says next NBI chief must be 'tough, clean'

By Christine O. Arendano

PRESIDENT Aquino wants the next National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) chief to be "tough and clean," his spokesperson Edwin Lucena said yesterday.

Lucena said Mr. Aquino had instructed Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to look for those qualifications while she was preparing a short list of candidates for the top NBI post.

The position is vacant after the President sacked Magtanggall last week because of a justice department memo's finding that the latter was involved in the abduction of a Japanese woman in October

2012 LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL
JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 15
WELCOME THE DRAGON YEAR IN A FORTY-SECOND CELEBRATION
—四十二年慶祝龍年—
40th Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines
40th Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines

THE MALAYSIAN NINJA THAMPAAN LION DANCE EXHIBITION
With the dance troupe from Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
JAN 24-25
JAN 26-27
JAN 28-29
JAN 30-31
FEB 1-2
FEB 3-4
FEB 5-6
FEB 7-8
FEB 9-10
FEB 11-12
FEB 13-14
FEB 15-16
FEB 17-18
FEB 19-20
FEB 21-22
FEB 23-24
FEB 25-26
FEB 27-28
FEB 29-30
FEB 31

WORLD	BUSINESS	SPORTS
Arab League wants defiant Assad out / A19	PSALM to rush sale of power barges / B1	Sharapova in; Serena exits Australian Open / A15

Syjuco denies irregularity

By Luis R. Salaverria

MC PUEBLO from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) were irregularly transferred to nongovernment organizations providing school supplies to implement its programs, according to Emilio Rios, Regional Director.

Syjuco, the former chief of Tesda, was reacting to the findings of the Commission on Audit (COA) which had questioned the transfer of P50-million funds from the Tesda central office and Region VI office to the Department of Education in 2009 and 2010.

The funds were all legally and for the Commission for AFP programs under which elementary and high school students were to give cashless, long, antenatal and other school supplies and training materials. The COA had said that the projects were not part of Tesda's mandate.

In a letter to the President, Syjuco explained that the P50.12 million and P20 million transferred to the cooperative had come from the priority development fund or pork barrel of the first representative of Batangas second district.

He said the funds were given to him in Tuba city; it was not all only from specifically qualified agencies through which the money could be channeled, aside from Tuba, the other authorized channels were the Commission on Higher Education

and the Department of Education.

The Tuba fund was even used for the Ed. Section for all programs of the district for the past 24 years since its inception up to now that it has served about 700,000 students nationwide, with each family all being recognized "PEAP" funds," Syjuco said in the letter.

He also said legislators did not transfer these PEAP funds, and merely asked to identify the projects that would be supported with the funds.

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Asians welcome the Year of the Water Dragon



A 1982 calendar shows the Chinese New Year celebration in Manila, Philippines.

From page A1

order as families across the Chinese capital set off fireworks and lanterns to ward off evil spirits in the new year—a custom repeated across the country.

Those living in the Philippines, meanwhile, were able to sleep in on Monday after the Lunar New Year because an official holiday for the first time, despite China's ban on fireworks in the business community.

The celebration in the predominantly Chinese country was unusually peaceful, according to Chief Supt. Aguirre (17 p. 2), spokesman of the Philippine National Police.

"We have seen no unusual reports of major security incidents from anywhere. There were some incidents of vandalism and spats among the vendors, but nothing that led to large-scale incidents or riotous incidents," Aguirre said.

He said additional units of about 100 policemen were deployed in Manila's districts and other Chinese-inhabited areas like the City of San Francisco.

Bringing in baby boom

The dragons in the most favorable and prosperous in the Lunar New Year calendar—a symbol of wealth, health and power that is also used in other cultures that celebrate the Lunar New Year such as in Vietnam.

On Feb. 1, Singapore across China and its Chinese communities are looking for a baby boom as couples try to have a child this year.

Parents in Hong Kong and neighboring Taiwan are changing views in 2012, and the birth rate in the capital's Mainland Hospital are all booked until August, according to the official media news agency.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was made chairman of the Dragon Year on the country's calendar in 2002, an attempt to reduce the government's heavy reliance on immigrants.

"I certainly hope that this year will be a big Dragon Year for babies," a statement to Singapore's Singapore Press Photo Agency said in his new year message.

But in Hong Kong, where tens of thousands of pregnant women come to give birth every year to gain residency rights in their home, the Hong Kong government said a boom in fertility could exacerbate problems such as limited beds and nursing delivery costs.

Most Chinese 'wander'

And according to some sociologists and economists, the Dragon year may bring cultural diffusion and financial stability to an already diversified world.

Hong Kong's top media outlet South China Morning Post said the "wanderlust spirit" could make China in the second half of 2012, and also said high-ranking Chinese officials would be seen to step down, changes before or after.

But people across Asia disagreed the



A WOMAN in traditional Chinese dress stands next to a dragon sculpture in Manila, Philippines, during the New Year celebration.

Acquaintance predictions over the holiday, preferring to focus on culture with their families, and pray for a peaceful year.

Holiday buds

Highways in Singapore, where 23 percent of the population is ethnic Chinese, were closed at the weekend while the capital Kuala Lumpur became almost deserted in people's hometowns.

In South Korea, individuals celebrate the Lunar New Year, known as Seollal, with their families—some 31 million people—back to a rural, mountainous and plant life holiday.

But closer to the capital Seoul—located in the center of the country—located with cities in the thousands of tourists from China swapped mass shopping areas in Singapore's 200 billion won (US\$1 million) in January.

"I feel like I'm walking in a dream in Seoul. There are so many of them," said Park Eun, a South Korean college student. With reports from AFP and Korea 2. Byunghee in Manila.

TRAVEL PLANS
 (FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 1-7, 2012)

TO	FROM	FARE
Manila to Seoul	Manila to Seoul	1,200
Manila to Tokyo	Manila to Tokyo	1,500
Manila to Osaka	Manila to Osaka	1,800
Manila to Bangkok	Manila to Bangkok	1,000
Manila to Hong Kong	Manila to Hong Kong	1,100
Manila to Taipei	Manila to Taipei	1,300
Manila to Shanghai	Manila to Shanghai	1,600
Manila to Beijing	Manila to Beijing	1,900
Manila to Guangzhou	Manila to Guangzhou	1,700
Manila to Shenzhen	Manila to Shenzhen	1,500
Manila to Nanjing	Manila to Nanjing	2,000
Manila to Chengdu	Manila to Chengdu	2,200
Manila to Kunming	Manila to Kunming	2,400
Manila to Xi'an	Manila to Xi'an	2,600
Manila to Lanzhou	Manila to Lanzhou	2,800
Manila to Urumqi	Manila to Urumqi	3,000
Manila to Harbin	Manila to Harbin	3,200
Manila to Qiqihar	Manila to Qiqihar	3,400
Manila to Jiamusi	Manila to Jiamusi	3,600
Manila to Heihe	Manila to Heihe	3,800
Manila to Mohe	Manila to Mohe	4,000
Manila to Yichang	Manila to Yichang	2,100
Manila to Wuhan	Manila to Wuhan	2,300
Manila to Nanjing	Manila to Nanjing	2,500
Manila to Hangzhou	Manila to Hangzhou	2,700
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Simple lang. Maraming.

Ayala Alabang Village tightens security

House owners asked to submit names of potential tenants

By Helen Morales

AFTER the discovery of three drug laboratories at the exclusive subdivision in Muntinlupa City within a span of two weeks, officials of the Ayala Alabang Village homeowners association have agreed to implement stricter security measures to weed out tenants involved in illegal activities.

In a phone interview yesterday, village manager Roman Hernandez said that the Ayala Alabang Village Homeowners Association (AAVH) would ask the owners of houses being rented out inside the subdivision to submit to the group the names of their tenants.

"We are in the process of continuing dialogue with the Bureau of

Investigation and even embassies so we could verify the identities of potential tenants," he said.

On top of this, property owners were also asked to include a provision in their lease contracts which would allow the AAVH to inspect the houses being rented out from time to time, Hernandez added.

He explained that this was necessary to allow the homeowners group to strictly implement village regulations, including a requirement that tenants use the houses only for personal or business use.

The proposals exposed yesterday during a forum between AAVH officials and residents with officials of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), which was represented by Deputy Manila regional office head Pedro Alapagan.

The drug raid on the exclusive subdivision was conducted by PDEA. In the last operation conducted on Jan. 6, five houses were raided and resulted in a house at 384 Alabang Drive.

located during the operation were P3.5 million worth of drugs.

Two more raids conducted on Dec. 13 on 118 Eastwood 16 and 334 Country Club Drive resulted in the seizure of more drugs and laboratory equipment but no arrests since the suspected long-boss remained.

Authorities said that the houses were medium-sized drug laboratories that could produce 100,000 worth of drugs within two to three days.

Right after the raids, Barangay Mayor Alvin San Pedro also ordered the police to look into reports that some social houses in the subdivision were being used as gambling dens.

Jealous man tries to kill self following spat with boyfriend

By John M. Rumbaut

"GIBING" gathered yesterday at the corner of Binay and Tandang Sora in Quezon City after a man climbing a fence and a pillar on the ledge of a window at the 10th floor of the Victoria Tower condominium.

When it seemed apparent that the man was going to jump, a call was made to the police at a few minutes past 9 a.m. and members of the licensing police station rushed to the scene.

For nearly three hours, they waited with him on the ledge of the window until he was told to jump. A call was made to the police at a few minutes past 9 a.m. and members of the licensing police station rushed to the scene.

Gradually, the man came out. The man's name was Joseph Pineda.

He was 40 years old, an English teacher and he had just finished school at the time of his last job in the past year—Alfonso Quijano, a call center agent—also, at that very moment, was inside his unit.

Pineda, who was bleeding from the head, had been hit on the head by a brick thrown by his neighbor. He was 40 years old, an English teacher and he had just finished school at the time of his last job in the past year—Alfonso Quijano, a call center agent—also, at that very moment, was inside his unit.

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JOSEPH Pineda hangs from a ledge and swears a pillar in the scene as he sits on the window of his unit on the 10th floor of the Victoria Tower at the corner of Pineda and Tandang Sora in Quezon City. For nearly three hours, residents and police were on the ledge of a window at the 10th floor of the Victoria Tower condominium.

boyfriend, grabbed a brick, on his unit and then climbed over the ledge of the window of his unit.

"I was very much, I want to kill myself. I am under a lot of stress," he said, policemen and residents who were trying to get him to change his mind.

Shortly before noon, several of the policemen and residents from the

Barangay of Pinatubo had apparently had enough.

They climbed to the 10th floor and then jumped to the 11th floor where they started Pineda back inside his unit and persuaded him to give him self over.

At the same time, they took Pineda to a nearby hospital where he was treated for acid burn.

Pineda, however, was not yet done. As far as being taken away, he made the following appeal: "To all men, be faithful to your gay lovers."

PHIL 2012. Police said the licensing police station investigation division said they were looking into reports that some social houses in the subdivision were being used as gambling dens.

Navotas all set for 'Bourne' stars

By Kristine Pineda Pineda

EVERYTHING is ready for the two-day show of the Hollywood movie "The Bourne Legacy" at the Navotas Film 360 Complex starting today.

John Dominguez of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority said the bureau yesterday that around 30 security personnel would be deployed to the area today and tomorrow. PDEA superiors operations at the film park.

The movie crew however will remain in the area to shoot additional scenes on Dec. 2 and 3.

Dominguez said that for the duration of the film, Mayor I would be off limits to the public. But a separate area has been designated for those who want to get a glimpse of the movie's lead men Richard Dreyfuss and Jeremy Irons.

"This is just for security people

as," Dominguez added.

Although leading to the film park will remain open to visitors, Mayor Dominguez said the city's chief public information officer said the location.

He said that there was no need to close other neighborhoods because the shooting would take place inside the complex.

He added that aside from PDEA security personnel, the City Traffic and Parking Management Office would also be deployed to the vicinity of the film park to ensure traffic.

Meanwhile, because police did not have much, Pineda Dominguez said the location that the city police was ready to provide police personnel that would be required from the PDEA.

"We are already in charge of the film park but if they ask for help, we will give it to them," he said.



STREET DANCE

Another group of people in traditional Chinese New Year costumes performing a street dance.

DID YOU KNOW

The Philippine Sports Commission, located in Manila, Manila, was created through Republic Act No. 8247 on Jan. 24, 1990, to implement a national sports program. It is composed of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, the first sports governing body in the country, and the Philippine Sports Commission, the first sports governing body in the country.

Philippine Sports Commission



Simple lang. Maraming.





Print connects



By Roderick L. Alarid
Special Features Writer

TECHNOLOGICAL advancement is changing the way Filipinos receive information today. The emergence of Internet empowers the general public to access their news and information at a faster pace. Nevertheless, the print industry remains relevant and powerful as it continues to become an indispensable source of content for everybody—both in real and cyber worlds.

"Print has always had an edge when it comes to content. It is able to transcend an issues because not everyone gives away space to be easily accessed and read. More so, it has become a source for adults and the teenager when it comes to news and information," said Roderick L. Alarid, Business Development vice president for corporate affairs and training president of the United Print Media Group (UPMG).

While other half of the Filipino consumer population of age, gender, location and social class have already moved to the Internet to access news and entertainment, traditional print media still continues to be a popular platform for the general public.

In fact, the most recent study conducted by media research firm Futuresource revealed that newspapers remain a first favorite in 2011, with 38 percent of the population reading one or more local newspaper or English title, while close to 32 percent read magazines. As of last

year, the estimated population in the country is more than 10 million.

Sydney-based business development manager Adrian Tanaka pointed out that the newspaper readers are made up of "the more affluent section of society." She added that as much as Filipinos of these and they were consistently focused on reading—and did nothing except for eating—when they picked up newspapers.

Since print readers become more opinion, they offer good targeting opportunities to advertisers, according to Anne Giron, Synerise's executive director for media. He said, "English dailies and magazines offer their target results from the important Greater Manila Area where higher socioeconomic are in their most concentrated. However, this does not discount the significance of print magazine titles in particular for the 'boomer and baby boomer segments.'" he stressed.

Even if the Internet is the becoming massive viable advertising medium, bright prospects for the print media remain as advertising industry trends show that they continue to be the medium of choice for both publishers and advertisers. Because of limited budget, advertisers are seen to continue using traditional media because there had considerable reaction that would allow them to justify the effectiveness of their advertising budgets.

"Today's print industry has become more dynamic to the way it presents the news. Publications are more color and are in presenting photos. Stories are

compromised. There are more advertisements and special sections being placed in the publications. And this is recognition of the efficacy of print in communicating advertising campaigns," stressed Alarid, who is also the current executive vice president and chief operating officer of Philippine Graphic Publications Inc.

Embracing the digital world

Print has always been and will always be the official documentation of history—a role that the other media cannot take on simply because it offers a longer shelf life. But with digitization now on the rise, players in this field must keep up with the trend.

Going into the digital world, all publications currently spend a lot to maintain a website that is accessible to the reading public. From a simple online site, the print journals are now becoming very interactive. And with the increasing popularity of social networking, some are even integrated in Facebook and Twitter.

The moving demand for easy and fast access to information has moved its users to play a complementary system there content on the web. To keep up with the pace, social networking often work on a 24/7 schedule, either updating their stories in digital format or converting all day and updating the publication's Facebook account.

"We have adapted to the digital age and we have found ways to be a major player in the marketing communication technology," Alarid said.

Always connected

In sync with today's digital age, the country's big and strong organization of the print media will search to stay ahead. "Print Connectors," during the inauguration of its new set of offices at the Marikina Grand Ballroom, Manila on Monday Jan. 23 at 10 a.m.

"The choice of 'Print Connectors' as a theme was selected as because we wanted to tell our readers that we continue to stay connected," said incoming UPMG president Alarid.

No less than Vice President Ismael Rong said that the term is an interesting effort to make. He will keynote the early starting ceremony with his speech, titled "Print Media: A Tool for Good Governance."

For the next year (2012 to 2014), UPMG will be under the auspices of its newest president, Alarid, together with members of the Board: Roderick E. Alarid (UPM advertising), Philippine Daily Inquirer) as president emeritus, Roderick L. Alarid (founder member, Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.), vice president, Jay Bernabe (corporate communications manager, The Philippine STAR), board secretary, Vicente A. Alarid (director of advertising, Philippine Automated Inc.), treasurer, Angel V. Guerrero (editor-in-chief/publisher, Asiatik Magazine), public relations officer, Ron B. Tanaya (advertising manager, Sitcom Publishing), and/or, Danilo C. Guepco (advertising director, BusinessWorld Publishing Corp.), director

of sales, L. Bernabe (operations director, Mingo together Publications, director, and Neil O. Guepco (advertising manager, Asia Journal Publications), director.

With the new administration, Alarid said that their members as well as stakeholders could expect for a more dynamic organization in sync with the Philippine media industry's continued progress.

New composed of 27 member publications group with over 300 titles, UPMG aims a growth in its membership, as for more publications will join this year. The new leadership will launch a road show in the Visayas and Mindanao regions to recruit publications joining them.

This year, the organization will have the 2nd Asia annual recognizing excellence and creativity in the production of print ads. UPMG is also holding the 2nd Print Congress that will tackle the challenges facing the print industry.

What's more, the new board will also focus to strengthen the protection of its state to ensure stability and growth. This will involve dialogue with the Department of Trade and Industry and local government units to ensure the group's four years in selling the hard copy are protected.

"In being the print industry entity to adapt and embrace the changing habits of the public, we at UPMG are very confident that print will still be a powerful and effective medium for news and information," Alarid said.

United Print Media Group Members



By Davis C. Dorman

Explaining the bank's 2012 total gain, the end of 2012 has produced an average 11 percent gain in trading, although some areas were not

Last year, H.C.H. brought in two average, winning incomes...the

of it is a one-button platform. We have been working on it in the last four years and expect to turn it on this fall year as we're hoping that with new technology we'll have a smaller, stable system then we can start lowering our (to increase) total and reduce people intervention," he said.

►

Three companies—Sun Oil Co. (Hokuriku), Shell Chemicals Co. (Hokuriku) and Inpco Japan Corp.—produce a combined 78 million liters of ethanol a year. This could hardly meet actual total demand, which

Arbeitsgruppe 8B

Although the IMF considers the country's overall banking sector to good shape, driven by the strong financial performance of commercial banks,

The central bank said processing coordination was consistent with its duty to strengthen the overall rural and cooperative banking system.

MRT maintenance deal with Sumitomo extended

He said the DOTC would improve increased management at stations, especially during rush hour; to ensure that people were able to buy their tickets and board trains easily. He said these improvements could be easily implemented at minimal cost to taxpayers.

[illegible]

Conclusions

"In Seattle, Prince, we increased in 2000 and we're still there. In DC, in 2000 we were still there. In 2001, we invested in 2000, they withdrew in 2003 and put in a bigger amount," he said.

[illegible]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000
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Disasters of '11 may turn into blessings in '12

In drawing up budget, gov't turns to the poor

By Ruelito V. Dela Cruz

MALABANG: A tapping in 2011 may look like good news in 2012, the Year of the Dragon.

Typhoons may have cost the Philippine economy 6.51 per cent productivity in 2011, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Due to the impact of physical damage and loss of lives and assets with destroyed bridges, roads, irrigation canals, and other infrastructure, continued with lost productivity and other forms of indirect damage due to typhoons, flooding and related weather disaster.

Local-level engagement will be facilitated via village government agencies, local government units and private citizens to address the needs.

The Department of Budget and Management has already started the process of preparing next year's budget, partly to include an early passage of aid will be the General Appropriations Act of 2013.

Budget Secretary Francisco A. Alad and planning for 2013, the government would focus on the poorest towns identified by the Cabinet's human development and poverty reduction strategy.

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Reconstruction may offset lost productivity

The impact of such large-scale production could offset 0.4 percentage points from the country's potential gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2013, NEDA said.

For instance, the Philippine government must invest in timely infrastructure rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness for effect of typhoons.

Repair and rehabilitation works for damaged roads, irrigation facilities, and other infrastructure will provide jobs for displaced people and help restore affected areas quickly.

To reduce the probability of such disasters, the government should invest in disaster risk reduction and early warning systems.

Timely reconstruction may be a welcome boost to the country's economy, especially in the construction sector.

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Assurance must be extended to affected families in such a way that they can have some level of income, say the crop farming impact or provide for livestock raising.

These results of jobs due to disaster reconstruction will benefit from temporary work as a fund for work program.

Private economists agree that there must be a strong local-level policy coordination to maintain the long-term impacts of storms and natural calamities.

The government's professional staff, for instance, should be publicly accountable and used by local governments in preparation plans, the economists said.

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Unsung heroes

Several a bipartisan task force called the House Budget and Finance (HBAF) Committee.

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Future seen bleak without clear road map

By Ruelito V. Dela Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES could see a growth of 4 percent in 2011, and 5 to 6 percent in 2012, according to economist Benjamin E. Stokes of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

This estimate is below the government target but slightly more optimistic than those of local agencies by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

A presentation before the Philippine Business Forum on the weekend, Stokes said that the Philippine economy would grow below its previous pace, at five with slow new "normal" growth rate for the medium-term.

The "impulse" 7.4 percent economic growth in 2010 is seen as gross domestic product, or GDP, notwithstanding an increase in

time spending, rebranding of public spending, and loss of jobs, Stokes said.

Stokes, he said, the past three peaks of economic growth (2004, 2007, 2010) all coincided with national and local elections.

Without strong government spending and world recovery, a sustained 7- to 8-percent GDP growth for the Philippines is unlikely, Stokes said.

The Asian Development Bank's annual economic growth plan also set an average annual GDP growth of 7.6 percent by 2014, significantly below government targets.

The International Monetary Fund's revised outlook as of September 2011, Stokes said, also set a 7.4 percent growth rate for the Philippines.

Second worst performance in 2011 and 2012.

From January to November 2011, merchandise exports contracted by 5.4 percent compared to the same period in 2010.

"I imagine that exports of such will decline by 10 to 15 percent for the IMF was 0.11," Stokes said.

Furthermore, he was expected to show strong growth in the services sector, which is the main driver of the Philippine economy.

Stokes stressed that with a

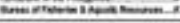
"immersion" budget, the problems of underemployment will continue to be a problem.

The magnitude of underemployment, he said, increased from 112.2 billion to the first quarter in 2010 to 112.2 billion in the first quarter of 2011.

Under the new law, while the world economy is going through a period of adjustment, our leaders should focus on creating jobs and improving infrastructure and on strengthening weak public institutions, Stokes said.

Stokes said that with a

Stokes stressed that with a



Thailand eyes bank loans, bonds for stimulus program

BANGKOK—Thailand plans to take out bank loans from its sovereign wealth funds to fund a \$50-billion bond (211 billion baht) in the next few months to finance infrastructure and social management programs to promote a recovery of last year's domestic growth, the Finance Minister says.

"Twenty billion baht has

been raised from banks will be sufficient with government bonds," Finance Minister Pongthorn Thienkijjanakul said in a meeting with the media on Friday.

"While these government

plans after the recent flooding in half a century devastated tourism and industry has lost jobs. The flooding spread from foreign firms, who have urged the government to come up with measures as soon as possible to protect industrial zones and the capital city from disruptions to supply chains in auto manufacturing

and computer components. Thai exporters have noted that more supply could flood the market if the government chooses to borrow from the debt market, which would hurt local jobs."

Kittakorn said there were sufficient funds in the Thai

without needing overseas money. "If all projects are implemented as announced, they will certainly present a report of the funds," he said.

Earlier, he reiterated his target of pushing economic growth to 7 percent this year. He said that the government would go ahead with a plan to

run corporate taxes 30 percent next year after reducing it to 21 percent this year from 30 percent to boost competitiveness.

It is among government

initiatives.

He said the government had no plan to raise value-added tax from the current 10 percent.

Reuters

Breakthrough reached on US aviation bill

WASHINGTON—Congressional leaders reached a breakthrough compromise on Friday on the most difficult issue blocking agreement on long-awaited US aviation legislation that would modernize and streamline the aging air traffic system.

Leaders in the House and Senate of Representative agreement to modify politically charged language on how airlines submit cost data that airlines, partly meeting legislation demands to reform US oversight of transportation industry, experienced airlines said. The compromise deal included by House Majority Leader Henry Hyde and House Speaker John Boehner on the way for a temporary funding extension of federal aviation aid, transportation officials said. The move is to place before any larger bill can be passed.

The current temporary measure fully funding that program is expected to expire July 1.

Agreement on the bill issue was cited by key lawmakers and officials as proof that parties could reach a compromise on the issue, which would allow a voluntary decision Congress.

"There have been no other issues in a fight. This is a good example of how the government can work together and put the interests of the nation ahead of political interests," said a spokesman for the House Transportation Committee.

The airline industry is heavily unionized, and labor groups are pushing to boost their power in the industry. The House Transportation Committee has been working to pass a bill that would allow airlines to hire more pilots and flight attendants. The House Transportation Committee has been working to pass a bill that would allow airlines to hire more pilots and flight attendants.

IBM's plain vanilla flavor leaves investors in its stock satisfied

NEW YORK—While IBM's results have solidified through its return to market, investors are pleased to see the company's stock price rise. IBM has been the technology world's most consistent performer, and its stock price has risen steadily since 2009.

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AN OUTSTANDING in Hong Kong's office at a hotel in Hong Kong is one in this Hong Kong government school Friday near HK\$200 million (2014 million) of proceeds from Hong Kong's new school in the country is set up by the Hong Kong government and US authorities. The US government also runs the Hong Kong school, which is a joint venture between the Hong Kong government and the US government. The school is a joint venture between the Hong Kong government and the US government.

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New rules, clearer costs set for international money transfers

NEW YORK—Customers who send international money transfers will also be required to disclose to the consumer the charges and fees involved in the transaction. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Friday issued new rules that require companies to disclose the charges and fees involved in the transaction.

The rules also require companies to disclose any fees, the charges and the amount that will ultimately be

paid out to the recipient in local currency. Companies will also be required to disclose the charges and fees involved in the transaction.

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Tepco to be nationalized for 10 years

TOKYO—Tokyo Electric Power Co., in effect, has been nationalized for at least 10 years and is expected to be nationalized for at least 10 years and is expected to be nationalized for at least 10 years.

The rules also require companies to disclose any fees, the charges and the amount that will ultimately be

paid out to the recipient in local currency. Companies will also be required to disclose the charges and fees involved in the transaction.

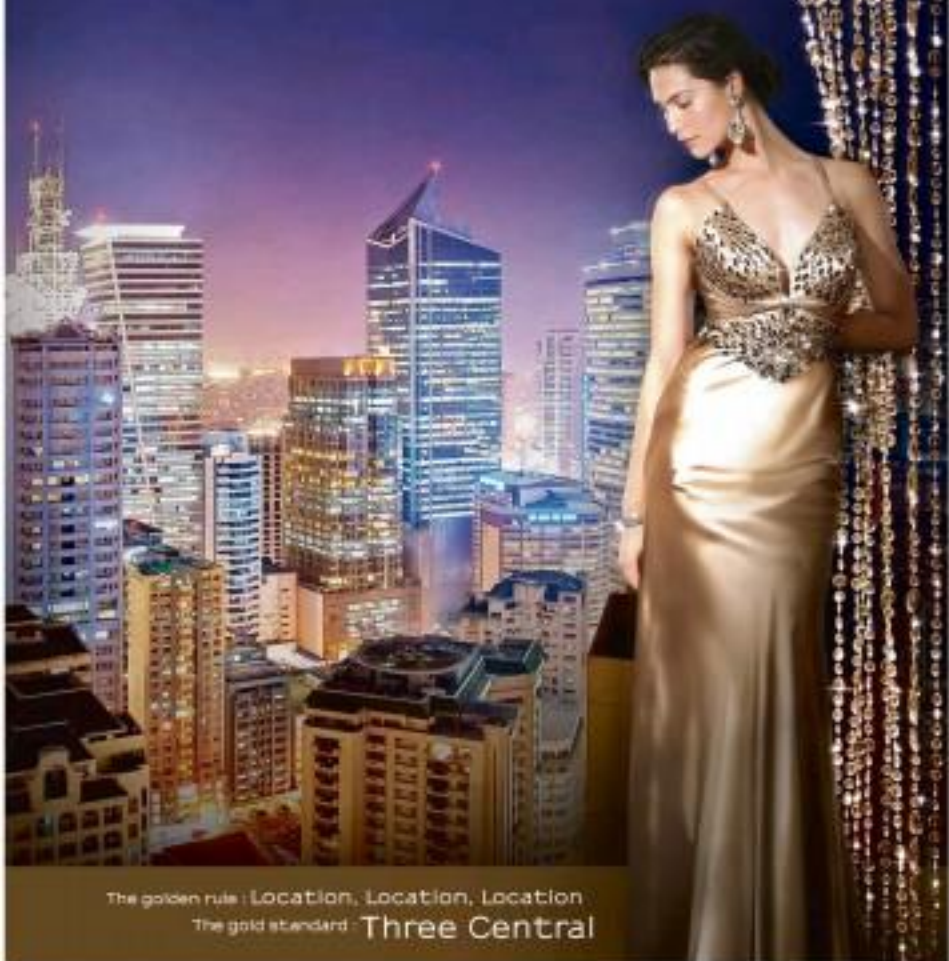
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CONCEPTS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

For the grid to be a valid solution, every row and every column must contain the digits 1 to 8. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku BY STEVE TAYLOR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2							
		2	6	5	3	4	
5	6		9	7			2
8	7		4		6		
	6		5	1			
		2					8
			6	3			2

Difficulty Level: ★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1 Across	1 Down
2 Across	2 Down
3 Across	3 Down
4 Across	4 Down
5 Across	5 Down
6 Across	6 Down
7 Across	7 Down
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Sun Life Fires Up this New Year with the Dragon Warriors

Sun Life Festival – Philippines welcomes the year of the Water Dragon with activities in Binondo and the Bonifacio Global City on January 24 with a theme “Thousand Fold Up in 2012.”

Starting on this day in Binondo, the day's celebration kicks off with a motorcade and dragon dance performances by Sun Life's dragon dance teaming 1,000 ft., leading spectators from the Manila City Hall to the Grand Bridge and ending in Plaza Lacerda. Now on its fourth year, the presence of the dragon has always drawn crowds of all ages, bringing its elegance to attract more wealth and good luck to everyone.

The steady continues at the Sun Life Center's second floor at the Bonifacio Global City with a motorcade joined by financial advisers and employees. The Sun Life Philippines President's CEO Riza Montano will also be present to formally welcome all employees, advisers and guests. President Montano will also lead the Sun Life team to welcome the year with renewed confidence and passion to reach its financial goals.



Adding excitement to the activities will be the annual participation of the Philippine Dragon Boat Festival – Dragon Warriors who will be joining the dragon. Not so it makes the celebration more fun to GGC. “The Dragon Warriors will be competing in the Dragon Boat Race. Dragon Warriors – Dragon Warriors because we truly truly appreciate the hard work and the discipline of the dragon and they embody the winning attitude of each and every Sun Life. In that sense, they are the perfect symbol of the kind of positive energy we want this year to bring,” says Chief Marketing Officer Melissa Lopez.

To complete the ritual of seeking luck and prosperity, activities will be organized to offer the Sun Life Chinese zodiac. “This is the spirit of activity that will motivate our desire to do things, to achieve more, and to progressively explore the vast opportunities that await us in this year of the Dragon. Let us be brave and lead up like the Dragon and let us claim the good fortune and prosperity it brings for us,” says Lopez.

Another highlight of the event is a program entitled The Flying Show which will be hosted by famous TV host Mr. Fu. The show will provide entertainment from Dr. Bacteria, Lip & the Sisters and a Flying Circus, who will also share his performance on how, health, healthy and happy for 2012.

“The new year holds as much promise and Sun Life will welcome it with more passion as we reach more customers and help them achieve their financial goals,” says Lopez.

Sun Life Financial – Philippines introduced the insurance to the Philippines in 1993 and is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies, a leading international financial services organization providing a diverse range of wealth management and protection products and services to individuals and corporate customers. Having its roots back to 1863, Sun Life Financial and its partners today have operations in key markets worldwide, including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, India, China and Bermuda. As of September 30, 2011 the Sun Life Financial group of companies had total assets under management of USD\$419 billion. Sun Life Financial, Inc. has offices in the United States (NYSE: NYSE) and the Philippines (PSE: PSE) stock exchanges under the ticker symbol SL.

Fierce Fired Up 2012 Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Ring with the **Water Dragon**, Sun Life Financial wishes in the prosperity of the new year with a thundering sound of victory in Binondo and, for the first time, in Bonifacio Global City.

On **January 24**, join the two festivities from the streets of Chinatown to the high street of BGC.

- Motorcade
- Longest Dragon (1,000 ft.) & Lion Dance
- The Flying Show with Mr. Fu
- Zip & Poi dancers
- Community Drum Beating with Chinese battle drums

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Sincerity a key to AJ Rafael's success

By Paula Colapinto

IT WAS a surreal night—a string of hits, mostly teenage girls, lining up to watch a concert last week at the Music Museum that featured AJ Rafael, a viral nobody.

But he's not really unknown. A year ago, the teen, then 16,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel, where he made videos barefooted

over 10 million hits. AJ (father Joseph, 22, a Filipino-American singer-songwriter from Irvine Valley, California, was introduced himself as he tried to speak above the din of screams from members in his gym. "What had he done to merit such a wild response?"

Backed by a band of two guitarists and one other A-list, AJ strummed chords and belted out as he played keyboards and sang

songs that were, at best, not bad to listen and better than he was singing.

The reputation, according to some, was powerful enough—inspiring a 15-hour conversation in "Tina Turner" and, ending posts to "Black Light," looking miserable in "Bad News," including the post in "You Hated Diego."

The music moved close to pop-rock with catchy mid-tem-

po beats, at times drifting from to allow lead guitar solos.

All these songs are contained in his debut single album, "Bad News," which went to No. 7 on iTunes and also climbed Billboard's iTunes chart.

When AJ called Kasey Valenzuela for a shot in the "Sip of Juice," which went to No. 7 on iTunes, we felt good. AJ should take things to another level—time to go to his.



AJ Rafael sings "Bad News" at Long Beach with Kasey Valenzuela of the Music Museum (clockwise from top left).

Nadine back with ex, admits brief romance with Leandro

By Paula Colapinto

"Come to think of it, with an amazing beautiful singing voice, when a talented person like me and a person like you, that really is a match. There comes to

be a second chance to me. Nadine, Long Beach singer, who was introduced to me by Tasha Nguyen. So Long Beach with our friend

Nadine's entrance to be used everywhere, and recently in "Sip of Juice" by Tasha Nguyen. So Long Beach with our friend

"I can't tell you how much I love you, but I can tell you how much I love you. I can't tell you how much I love you, but I can tell you how much I love you."

ing over original songs which I have already released in many of the best recording companies."

and him to A.S. Thanks for changing my world for the better. E-mail: nadinecolapinto@gmail.com

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TO GET READY FOR OPPONENTS
THE ODDS ARE EVEN

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MOVIE TIME

COLUMBIA

- 1. UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
- 2. WE BOUGHT A ZOO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
- 3. UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
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ALAMING TOWN CENTER

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AYALA CENTER CUBA

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- 9. ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
- 10. ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

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January 28
Greenleaf 3 Park

AYALA CENTER CUBA
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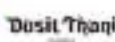
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